

Taming Bigfoot Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we use different recording periods?

We discourage this. If there is a strong reason why, contact the organizers. The calculations won't be invalidated, but there is a desire for everyone to use the same time periods.

2. How do we count kilowatt hours (kwh) if we don't get a bill in time?

Either read your meter or use the new SmartHub tool (<https://jeffpud.smarthub.coop/Login.html>) on the PUD website. If you don't know how to read your meter, take a picture and send it to either your Team Leader or the organizers to learn how to read it.

3. How to include solar generated electricity

Self-generated power that is used yourself should not be counted. Self-generated power that is sold back to PUD can be counted as a credit.

4. Do we need input data as a team or as an individual?

Each participant should enter data for themselves only. If more than one member belongs to the same household, they should divide their data appropriately and enter it individually.

5. Should we all fill our gas tanks at the beginning of a data period?

This method does make it easier to provide accurate fuel usage data so we encourage this method of monitoring fuel use.

6. Does garbage include yard waste?

No, since it is composted at the transfer station.

7. Does garbage include pet waste?

Yes, if it is included in your non-recycled garbage.

8. Do we capture packaging in purchases that are shipped?

No. We decided there was no simple way to account for this area of shopping. This omission results in underestimating one's carbon footprint, but if there is no change in this activity during the baseline and reduction phases of the competition, the measured change in carbon footprint should be accurate.

9. Does venison count as red meat?

Only red meat (mammals, not poultry or fish) that is purchased in a store is counted. This includes local or non-local grass-fed beef.

10. Are used books to be included in reading material?

No. Newly produced reading material is all that is counted.

11. Should magazines be included in reading material?

Yes, if new, as well as newsletters or other new printed material.

12. How can an individual team member know their personal CO₂e production numbers?

The web site and the mobile apps provide these data.

13. What if I can't use either the web site or the mobile app to enter my data?

We can provide an Excel spreadsheet with the same data entry categories. Your Team Leader will then be expected to register you on the web site and enter your data electronically by transferring your data from the spreadsheet.

14. How do we count food purchase for pets & farm animals?

Your pet is part of your footprint, and should be included under the FOOD category. Purchases for a pet that is owned by multiple people should be divided by the number of pet owners.

15. What if we travel?

You should capture the food you eat, transportation, etc. as accurately as possible. (You don't need to attempt to capture the electricity and water used at hotels, etc.)

16. Should farmed fish count as "store purchased meat"?

Yes

17. How should I account for solar panels?

For those with solar panels you should record the electricity purchased from the PUD minus the electricity sold to the PUD each month. There is no credit for surplus solar-generated electricity from last summer.

18. Are bread and other bakery goods baked locally considered local food?

Yes.